

House Resolution 757

By: Representatives Jackson of the 161st, Gordon of the 162nd, and Carter of the 159th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Community Health to increase efforts to address diabetes
2 in the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, diabetes is a chronic disease for which there is currently no known cure and is
4 the sixth leading cause of death in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, the serious long-term complications of high blood sugar levels may include
6 blindness, lower-extremity amputation, heart disease, kidney failure, and premature death;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in recent years, the number of individuals diagnosed with diabetes has increased
9 41 percent, and nine out of ten individuals who are newly diagnosed with adult on-set
10 diabetes also suffer from obesity; and

11 WHEREAS, America is facing a diabetes epidemic: an estimated 20.8 million Americans are
12 living with the disease nationwide, and in Georgia, an estimated 616,000 adult residents are
13 currently living with the disease; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia's diabetes prevalence rate is 8.3 percent, while the national prevalence
15 rate is only 7 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, education, early detection, and proper treatment are the keys to reducing the
17 incidence of diabetes and the health complications associated with diabetes; and

18 WHEREAS, it has been shown that modest weight loss may help to lower blood sugar, blood
19 pressure, and improve the level of fats in the bloodstream, which is beneficial to the
20 treatment of diabetes and other metabolic diseases; and

1 WHEREAS, traditionally, those considered at high risk were typically older citizens, but in
2 recent years there has been an alarming increase in the number of younger people who are
3 being diagnosed with diabetes due to poor lifestyle choices and excessive body mass.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the Georgia Department of Community Health is hereby:

- 6 1. Urged to encourage individuals to seek early screening and early treatment;
- 7 2. Urged to encourage healthcare providers to improve care for the control of diabetes and
8 the treatment of major complications;
- 9 3. Urged to adopt generally recognized clinical practice guidelines such as the standards
10 of the American Diabetes Association that identify the reduction of body mass index,
11 cardiovascular risk issues, and glycemic control as key factors to managing diabetes; and
- 12 4. Urged to engage in an aggressive prevention and treatment program of diabetes with
13 Medicaid patients and those in the State Health Insurance Program, including dietary
14 counseling and exercise, measurements of body weight, and other associated risk factors.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
16 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of
17 Community Health.